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TOR: 280012Z APR 82

PP RUEAIIB
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DE RUFHOL #9141 1171656
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P 271656Z APR 82
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6333
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 7425
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE PRIORITY
RHFRAAB/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE PRIORITY
BT
UNCLAS BONN 09141

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON WARTIME HOST NATION
- SUPPORT

REF: BONN 8357 DTG 161636Z APR 82

1. THE FONOFF HAS GIVEN US THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO FRG AMBASSADOR HERMES FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, CONG. PRICE, CONC-
ERNING THE SIGNING OF THE WHNS AGREEMENT (REFTEL).
UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH THE LETTER WAS DATED APRIL 9,
IT WAS RECEIVED IN BONN TOO LATE TO BE USED IN CONJUNC-
TION WITH THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,

THIS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 1, 1982,
WITH REGARD TO A DELEGATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ATTENDING
THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE WARTIME HOST NATION SUPPORT
AGREEMENT ON APRIL 15, 1982, AT THE INVITATION OF
FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER.

WE SINCERELY REGRET THAT DUE TO THE LATENESS OF THE
TIME AND THE INTERVENING EASTER CONGRESSIONAL RECESS,
WE WERE UNABLE TO ASSEMBLE A DELEGATION FOR THIS MOST
IMPORTANT EVENT. ALSO, IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE,
THAT MR. STRATTON IS NOW UNABLE TO ATTEND AS A PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE OF UNAVOIDABLE COMMITMENTS IN
THE UNITED STATES.

NONETHELESS, MR. AMBASSADOR, SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE
COMMITTEE, I WISH TO CONVEY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER
AND TO YOU OUR CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXTREME
IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED SERVICES IN PARTICULAR.
WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR THEIR FINE SPIRIT
OF COOPERATION IN ENDORSING THE WARTIME HOST NATION

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SUPPORT PROGRAM.

MR. AMBASSADOR, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THIS REPLY
COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY,
AND AGAIN, MAY I EXPRESS TO YOU AND TO FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE INVITATION AND MY
SINCERE REGRET AT NOT BEING REPRESENTED AT THE SIGNING
OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

WITH WARM REGARDS,
SINCERELY,
SGD. MELVIN PRICE
CHAIRMAN
END TEXT. WOESSNER

END OF MESSAGE

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